

have become very popular with WIC participants because of their convenience and service. That should continue.

# INTRODUCING THE MMA TERRITORIAL EQUITY FOR LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS ACT OF 2004

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 8, 2004*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will treat Medicare-eligible citizens of Guam, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands the same as low-income citizens in the 50 States and the District of Columbia with respect to the Medicare prescription drug transitional assistance program and, beginning in 2006, premium and cost-sharing subsidies under the national Medicare prescription drug program. I am joined by Congresswoman DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN of the Virgin Islands, Congressman ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA of American Samoa and Resident Commissioner ANÍBAL ACEVEDO-VILÁ of Puerto Rico as original co-sponsors of this legislation, which will provide health care equality to seniors in the insular areas with respect to the prescription drug benefit.

Currently, citizens of the insular areas contribute to the Medicare Trust Fund in the same manner as citizens in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. However, while the Medicare Modernization Act (MMA) created a transitional assistance program authorizing up to \$600 in prescription drug subsidies for individual low-income Medicare beneficiaries in both 2004 and 2005, the territories receive only a small Federal block grant (\$35 million in aggregate for both years to cover an estimated 450,000 Medicare beneficiaries) to help defray the costs of implementing local prescription drug plans through their respective public health departments. While exact data is not available, it is estimated that beneficiaries in the insular areas will receive significantly less relief than their counterparts in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. The MMA also does not include citizens in the territories for the purposes of the full national prescription drug plan authorized for Medicare beneficiaries beginning on January 1, 2006. Again, a separate Federal block grant is allotted to the territories in lieu of full participation.

Citizens of the insular areas face greater challenges to accessing adequate health care and prescription drug services than citizens in the States and the District of Columbia. Transportation costs and smaller economies of scale increase the cost of prescription drugs available in these areas. Furthermore, the insular areas are home to many different minority groups, many of which are genetically disposed to certain illnesses. For example, African American, Hispanic and Pacific Island Americans are all genetically disposed to diabetes, which is particularly prevalent among the age 40-and-over category. Therefore, access to prescription drugs will, in addition to increasing the quality of life among citizens of the insular areas, help resolve other health disparities such as prevention and treatment of genetically-disposed illnesses.

My legislation recognizes that health care inequalities exist with respect to the treatment of citizens in the insular areas. It further recognizes that, in the case of the new transitional assistance and prescription drug programs authorized under the MMA, citizens of the insular areas pay into the Medicare Trust Fund in the same manner as citizens in the 50 States and the District of Columbia and should, therefore, receive parity with respect to benefits. The current protocol for block granting prescription drug funding to the insular areas will ensure that health care disparities will continue to exist in these areas. The best solution with regard to fairness and parity is to allow citizens of the territories to participate directly in these Federal prescription drug assistance programs.

My bill would ensure parity with respect to the application of the MMA in the insular areas by eliminating the current prescription drug block grant formula in favor of including low-income Medicare beneficiaries in Federal prescription drug assistance programs. Support for this legislation will ensure that all Americans receive the benefits to which they are entitled under the MMA.

## PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARTIEY MILLER

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 8, 2004*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Martiey Miller for her outstanding dedication to her Grand Junction, Colorado community. Her effort as general manager at Cumulus Broadcasting in Grand Junction has done much to ensure the high quality of radio programming that characterizes the network. As Martiey moves on in her accomplished career, I believe it is appropriate to acknowledge her service to her community before this body of Congress and this nation today.

Martiey moved to Grand Junction nineteen years ago in order to be closer to family. She took a job as a receptionist at the local radio station and began her ascent through the ranks. Jumping at every opportunity, she took a position in sales, and then became the sales manager, before assuming the position of general manager at Cumulus Broadcasting in Grand Junction running KEKB and KOOL Radio. During her tenure at Cumulus Broadcasting she played an important role in turning a struggling company into a successful business.

For Martiey's efforts and successes at the station, she has been recognized nationally. In 1994, she was named the outstanding radio sales manager by the Radio Advertising Bureau. Two years later, she was honored as the Colorado's Broadcast Citizen of the Year by the Colorado Broadcasters.

Beyond her career, Martiey has been very active in the community. She previously held positions as the president of both the Kiwanis and Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce, as well as being a member of the JUCO committee and the Hilltop Board. Her most notable achievement in public service came as co-chair of the citizens' committee to pass a school bond issue and override the budget. Her efforts proved successful when the bond issue and budget override passed.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the success of Martiey Miller as a leader in the Grand Junction community. She is moving on to a new job in Minneapolis, but let it be known that she has left a great legacy of commitment and dedication to Grand Junction and the State of Colorado. I congratulate her on her new job and wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

## A TRIBUTE TO GLENORE M. ANDERSON

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 8, 2004*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Glenore M. Anderson in recognition of her civic participation and business success.

Glenore is a living testimony to the power of hard work and effort. A banker by profession, it took Ms. Anderson eleven years to move up the corporate ladder to her current position as Vice President/Branch Manager of the Broadway and Driggs Street Office of HSBC Bank, one of the largest branches of HSBC Bank USA in Brooklyn, NY.

Born on the island of Trinidad and Tobago in the West Indies, Glenore immigrated to the United States in the summer of 1992. She moved here with her family after successfully completing her studies in her home country. A few short months after taking up residence in New York City, she was hired as a customer service representative with Marine Midland bank, which later became HSBC Bank USA. She quickly moved through the ranks and excelled as a sales representative, sales manager, OIC (officer in charge), and Vice President/Branch manager.

Glenore continues to exemplify this spirit of excellence in her current position as the Branch Manager. She continuously works toward motivating her staff of 16 by employing a "hands on" approach. In so doing, she demonstrates her abilities as a team player and team leader. She believes that it is important for her staff to see that she can do whatever task is required of them. Due to this type of cohesive effort and leadership skills, the operation of the branch has been very successful, which boasts assets totaling \$105 million.

In addition to her expertise in banking, Glenore has also earned accolades for her efforts to strengthen the community. As such, she was honored with the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry award for Women History makers of 2000; the Network Journal award for 40 Under Forty Achievers of 2001; and an award from the New Deeper Life Tabernacle in 2003.

During the month of February in 2001, 2002 and 2003, she brought this sense of community to the branch by hosting a celebration of Black History Month. The celebrations took the form of an art exhibit mounted in conjunction with Art Groupie.Com, which featured the works of four African/Caribbean American artists.

Married and the mother of one, Glenore receives strong support from her family and friends who believe whole-heartedly in her potential to reach the stars.

Mr. Speaker, Glenore M. Anderson has excelled in the business world while still finding